

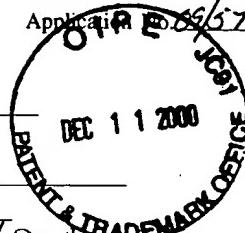


Director, the Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date 12/11/00
Mo. Day Yr.

Atty. Docket 862 C1917

Application 10/26/577608



Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the accompanying:

- Response to Official Action. _____
 Check for \$ _____ (claims fee)
 Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 and Check for \$ _____
 Notice of Appeal and Check for \$ _____
 Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and W/J/for documents
 Claim for priority and certified copies of _____ priority applications
 Issue fee transmittal and Check for \$ _____
 Other (specify) _____

by placing your receiving date stamp hereon and mailing or returning to deliverer.

Atty. SEW/jw

Due Date 12/11/00
Mo. Day Yr.

37 CFR 1.8

37 CFR 1.10

By Hand

FCHS-BR



862.C1917

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
EIGO KAWAKAMI, ET AL.) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 09/577,608) : Group Art Unit: 2876
Filed: May 25, 2000) :
For: POSITIONING APPARATUS,) December 11, 2000
ATMOSPHERE SUBSTITUTING :
METHOD, EXPOSURE APPARATUS,)
AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING :
METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Japanese Patent Document No. 2-156625 is discussed on page 1 of the subject specification. The Examiner may find this document pertinent for the reasons noted therein.

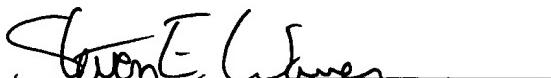
No translation was readily available for the above-noted Japanese document. Nevertheless, a translation of this document will be submitted if so requested by the Examiner. In the meantime, an English-language abstract, obtained from a commercial database, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with this filing. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 should any fee be deemed required for this filing.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the above information and return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



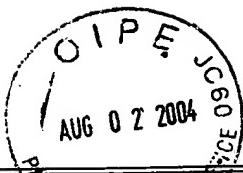
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SEW\vjw

(resigned on 8-2-04)





FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 862.C1917		APPLICATION NO. 09/577,608		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		APPLICANT EIGO KAWAKAMI, ET AL.				
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE May 25, 2000		GROUP 2876		
Submitted to the PTO: December 11, 2000						
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS
		4,969,168	11/1990	Sakamoto, et al.	378	34
		5,093,579	03/1992	Amemiya, et al.	250	453.1
		5,999,589	12/1999	Chiba, et al.	378	34
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS
		2-156625	06/1990	Japan		
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

SEWvw

Sheet 1 of 1